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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Ehab FAWZY (Egypt)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 45/75 of 11 December 1990.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 20 September 1991, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.

3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 11th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 16th and 26th meetings, on 28, 29, 30 and 31 October and 1, 4 and 21 November 1991 (see A/SPC/46/SR.11-16 and 26).

4. In connection with item 74, the Special Political Committee had before it the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/46/254).

5. The Committee also had before it the reports of the Secretary-General entitled "Secretariat units dealing with peace-keeping operations" (A/46/169) and "Model agreement between the United Nations and Member States contributing personnel and equipment to United Nations peace-keeping operations" (A/46/185 and Corr.1).

6. Also before the Committee was a letter dated 23 October 1991 from the Permanent Representatives of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/46/591).

7. At the 11th meeting, on 28 October, the representative of Canada introduced the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/46/254).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/SPC/45/L.9

8. At the 12th meeting, on 29 October, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" (A/SPC/46/L.9) sponsored by Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Nigeria and Poland.

9. On 1 November, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, submitted a statement (A/SPC/46/L.10) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

10. At the 16th meeting, on 4 November 1991, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced the draft resolution (A/SPC/46/L.9).

11. At the 23rd meeting, on 18 November 1991, the Committee had before it an addendum to the Secretary-General's statement (A/SPC/46/L.10/Add.1) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

12. At the 26th meeting, on 21 November 1991, the Committee adopted the draft resolution without a vote (see para. 14).

13. The Chairman referred to paragraph 35 of the draft resolution, which envisaged a series of meetings for the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations during 1992, and observed that a number of delegations had expressed their wish to have a time indicated for the envisaged series of meetings in 1992 so that they could make the necessary plans and preparations. In this connection, he stated that following informal consultations among members of the Bureau of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and also after inquiries to the Department of Conference Services about the availability of facilities and services, the indicative dates for the 1992 series of meetings were from 27 April to 29 May 1992. This arrangement did not exclude the possibility for the Special Committee to hold other meetings as required, since it had been so authorized by the General Assembly. A provision to this effect would be included in the Rapporteur's report to the General Assembly. These dates had to remain open and flexible in order to allow the Special Committee to meet as required or appropriate as indicated in paragraph 27 of the draft resolution (A/SPC/46/L.9) just adopted.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

14. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965, and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling, in particular, its resolutions 44/49 of 8 December 1989 and 45/75 of 11 December 1990,

Welcoming the progress made by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations during its sessions in 1990 and 1991 and, in particular, the agreement reached on a number of conclusions and recommendations,

Convinced that the United Nations peace-keeping operations are an integral component of enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that the peace-making activities of the Secretary-General, which are his good offices, mediation, conciliation and other diplomatic efforts, conducted with due respect for the sovereignty of Member States, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, constitute an essential function of the United Nations, and are among the important means for the prevention, containment and resolution of disputes and for maintaining international peace and security,

Taking into account that increasing activities in the field of United Nations peace-keeping require increasing human, financial and material resources for the Organization,

Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations peace-keeping forces and of the heavy burden on the troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

Emphasizing that the current political atmosphere is propitious for achieving further progress in the work of the Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the fact that constructive exchanges of views on various practical aspects of peace-keeping operations can contribute favourably to the smooth and effective functioning of these operations,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, 1/

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/46/1).

Having examined the report of the Special Committee, 2/

I

1. Takes note of the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations;

II

2. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the use of civilian personnel in peace-keeping operations 3/ and invites the Secretary-General to continue to consider using civilian personnel in the peace-keeping tasks whenever the Secretary-General deems it appropriate, taking into account the operational and other relevant needs, as well as the requirement of cost-effectiveness of the peace-keeping operations;

3. Welcomes the training guidelines issued by the Secretariat in 1991 and urges the Secretariat to keep the guidelines updated;

4. Requests the Secretariat to consider in due course the utility of similar guidelines for the training of civilian specialized units, including civilian police;

5. Recognizes the importance of peace-keeping training and considers it useful for the Secretariat to designate a focal point for all such related activities;

6. Again encourages those Member States with national or regional training programmes to provide access to those programmes, as appropriate, to other interested Member States;

7. Further encourages all Member States conducting training in peace-keeping to include cross-cultural education in existing training programmes;

8. Also encourages all Member States to organize their own national training programmes and consider the establishment of regional and national training centres, and urges all Member States to promote cooperation between them;

9. Requests the Secretary-General to study and report on the feasibility, including costs, of establishing an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme for national peace-keeping trainers to be administered by the Secretariat;

2/ A/46/254.

3/ A/45/502.

10. Requests the Secretary-General to collect information on peace-keeping training and similar activities and further requests the Secretary-General to issue a list based upon national submissions and to bring it up to date regularly;

11. Notes that only forty-five Member States have to date responded to the questionnaire issued by the Secretary-General on 21 May 1990 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/49 to identify those personnel, material and technical resources and services which Member States would be ready, in principle, to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping operations, and urges Member States which have not replied to do so;

12. Further encourages studies on the possible applications of high technology to peace-keeping operations, where it would enhance their efficiency;

III

13. Recalls that the financing of peace-keeping operations is the collective responsibility of all Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations;

14. Emphasizes again the need to ensure a secure and sound financial basis for United Nations peace-keeping operations, particularly with reference to the resources needed for the start-up phases of such operations;

15. Reiterates its call upon all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time and encourages again those States which can do so to make voluntary contributions that are acceptable to the Secretary-General;

16. Stresses the importance of the need to reimburse the outstanding dues of troop-contributing States;

17. Encourages the Secretary-General to continue to examine all aspects of peace-keeping operations, as distinct from the provision of technical and other assistance to States upon their request, in order to ensure that they are conducted in an efficient and cost-effective manner;

18. Considers it important that in establishing future peace-keeping operations, financial questions should continue to be studied seriously, particularly at the planning stage, in order to ensure the effectiveness of such operations and strict control of their expenditures;

19. Calls upon States directly concerned to take all necessary measures to facilitate the launching of peace-keeping operations, with a view to creating the necessary conditions for ensuring that they are conducted in a cost-effective manner;

IV

20. Encourages regional and subregional organizations to contribute, in the context of cooperation with the United Nations, to the effective conduct of peace-keeping operations;

21. Welcomes the factual report on the Secretariat units dealing with peace-keeping operations 4/ and welcomes as well the elaboration on it by the Secretariat;

22. Fully recognizes the complexity of the Secretariat functions in support of peace-keeping activities, and takes note of the dispersed nature of the various offices reporting to different Under-Secretaries-General;

23. Notes that, as a result of the launching of at least four new operations, the workload of the offices concerned continued to increase, recognizes the efforts made by the Secretariat to cope with the challenge, and further notes that the Secretariat's ongoing capacity to plan and coordinate new operations and manage ongoing ones is dependent on sufficient human resources to meet the increased demands;

24. Invites the Secretary-General, given the need to improve the capacity of the Secretariat to plan and coordinate new and ongoing peace-keeping operations, to investigate the feasibility of integrating those offices whose primary functions are directly related to peace-keeping;

25. Also invites the Secretary-General to consider identifying a focal point for contacts by Member States seeking information on all facets, including operational and administrative matters, of ongoing and planned peace-keeping operations;

26. Notes that informal consultations among Member States contributing personnel and other interested States held in accordance with resolution 45/75 were considered useful;

27. Takes note of the possibility for the Special Committee of holding inter-sessional open-ended informal consultations, as required, in order to have an exchange of views on operational and technical matters relating to the practical aspects of peace-keeping operations, and to receive briefings from the Secretariat and other briefings as may be appropriate;

4/ A/46/169 and Add.1.

V

28. Recognizes that peace-keeping operations are an evolving concept calling for increased attention and ongoing evaluation by the States Members of the United Nations, in conformity with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations;

29. Also considers that the growing demands on the United Nations in the field of peace-keeping make it essential to continue to secure the greatest possible level of support from Member States;

30. Considers it useful that the Special Committee continue discussion on different aspects of the question of prevention of conflicts;

31. Considers it useful for the United Nations to monitor global developments which eventually may be transformed into a crisis and, in this connection, takes note of the role of the Office for Research and the Collection of Information;

32. Considers it useful that the Special Committee pursue its exchange of views on the role of United Nations personnel in, inter alia, electoral activities when they are an integral part of peace-keeping operations, and on the role of the United Nations civilian police;

33. Considers that the composition of the United Nations peace-keeping operations, taken as a whole, should be on a wide geographical basis and requests the Secretary-General to continue to make every possible effort to broaden the participation of countries in these operations;

34. Considers it advisable that the Special Committee continue the discussion of the idea of a generally acceptable text of a declaration on United Nations peace-keeping operations, which would include fundamental organizational and practical aspects involved in the conduct of peace-keeping operations and would contain recommendations on ways to improve the effectiveness of such operations;

VI

35. Urges the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, to continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations in this field, taking into account the difficult financial situation of peace-keeping operations and the need for maximum cost efficiency;

36. Decides that the Special Committee shall accept the participation of observers of Member States, including in the meetings of its working groups;

37. Invites Member States to submit any further observations and suggestions on peace-keeping operations to the Secretary-General by 1 March 1992, outlining proposals on specific items in order to allow for more detailed consideration of the Special Committee, with particular emphasis on practical proposals to make these operations more effective;

38. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions and to submit it to the Special Committee by 30 March 1992;

39. Requests the Special Committee to consider authorizing its Bureau to prepare, in advance of the commencement of the session in 1992, a draft working document based on the submissions of Member States to the Secretary-General, containing specific items and elements for possible consideration by the Special Committee;

40. Also requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session;

41. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-seventh session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects".